

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Out of the total LPG produced at Kochi Refinery, nearly 85% is utilised to meet the demand of Kerala. After meeting this demand, the excess quantity is transported to neighbouring States.

Possibility of oil and natural gas reserves in Bihar

†669. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is strong possibility of large quantity of crude oil and natural gas reserves under the land of Bihar;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Hydrocarbon Directorate has confirmed the possibility of crude oil and natural gas in about 70 thousand Sq. Kms. of Ganga Basin and its three sub basins and Madhubani and Purnia districts of Bihar; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) Geologically, a part of Ganga valley sedimentary basin falls in Bihar and covers an area of approximately 70,000 Sq. Km. Ganga valley basin is divided into three sub basins from west to east, namely, Gandak, Madhubani and Purnia. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has acquired 1170 GLK of 20 seismic data for carving out exploration blocks.

Presently, exploration work is in progress in one block, namely GVONN-2002/1, awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IV round) and falling in the districts of Madhubani, Madhepura, Saharsa, Khagaria, Begusarai, Darbhanga and Samastipur of Bihar. One more block has been offered under NELP-VI round in Bihar.

Import price of oil

670. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that price of crude oil in the international markets have witnessed a sharp decline over the last few months;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.